

# JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

*Published by the Commission on Public Relations  
of the National Christian Council of Japan*

CABLE CODE: JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS: CHRISTIAN CENTER, 2, 4-CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN

Subscription Rates: Japan ¥1,000; Foreign (Sea mail) \$3.00; (Air mail) \$3.00, plus additional postage.

December 15, 1953

No. 30

HEARTFELT GREETINGS for a MERRY CHRISTMAS

and a

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Christmas 1953

-----

Cordially yours,

Rev. Michio Kozaki  
Moderator, N.C.C.

Rev. Akira Ebisawa  
General Secretary

Rev. Tsunetaro Miyakoda  
Chairman, Public Relations

## NCC REPRESENTATIVES REPORT ON TRIP TO OKINAWA

Mr. Higa, head of the Okinawa government, personally thanked the NCC Christian Education Week committee for their 2 weeks of work on Okinawa, and expressed the hope that Christianity would continue to help in Okinawa's recovery, according to Rev. Masami Mizuno, Secretary of NCC. The Committee of six which arrived in Okinawa on Nov. 21 was composed of Rev. Seishiro Iwamura, Rev. Akira Takata, Mr. Bunnosuke Sekine, Mrs. Yasuko Kitajima, Miss Yuriko Tanimoto, and Rev. Mizuno.

The women in the group conducted a series of 3 training meetings for kindergarten workers in various sections of the country. Although they had planned on working only with the teachers in Christian kindergartens, those from the government schools also requested permission to attend. Some of the more than 300 who attended the sessions came from long distances, bringing their bedding to stay in the local churches. Others came with babies strapped on their backs to take advantage of this unique opportunity. Since most of the teachers in the 13 church and 77 public school kindergartens have little or no special training for their work,

Digitized by the Internet Archive  
in 2024



No. 30 - December 15, 1953

the Japanese church hopes to send another group of leaders to conduct additional training courses in the near future.

Meetings were also held in many High Schools and Junior High Schools, and both the students and teachers seemed very receptive to Christianity. Since there are no other religions on Okinawa and only 20 Christian churches, there are great possibilities for work there.

An international work camp will be held on Okinawa next summer as a result of arrangements made with youth leaders during the campaign.

The pressing need of the Okinawa church for a doctor was emphasized. The Church has a mobile hospital unit, but at present they have only one nurse and no doctors to staff it. Yoshio Higa, moderator of the Okinawa Church, expressed the hope that a Japanese doctor could be found to come and work with the unit.

The huge shipment of books and other stationery given by the Sunday Schools in Japan arrived in Okinawa on Dec. 1 and was received by the church leaders there with many expressions of gratitude.

#### KYODAN RELATED MISSIONARIES MEET

The Kansai Fellowship of Kyodan Related Missionaries met for its annual two day meeting with a total of over ninety in attendance on Nov. 27 and 28. This year's meetings were held at the Canadian Academy and the Kobe Union Church. The Friday sessions were opened with an American style tea. Then the C.A. staff guided a number of tours of the school after explaining a bit about the history of the Interboard sponsored school. This was followed by a worship service led by Rev. John Barksdale of the Southern Presbyterian mission. After the turkey dinner and trimmings, there was a business session followed by a music program led by Bill Bilkey and the evening vespers were in the form of a song service led by Eugene Wenger.

The Saturday meetings were held at the Kobe Union Church under the guidance of Dr. William Axling who spoke on 'The Missionary, Yesterday and Today' and 'The Way to Win' after which Dr. Axling led in the closing communion service.

Although the total attendance was slightly less than last year's one hundred plus, the group represented a wider number of missions and Independants than ever before.

#### KYODAN HOLDS ANNUAL COUNCIL OF COOPERATION MEETING

Streamlining the present administrative setup was the chief topic of discussion at the 6th annual Council of Cooperation meeting of the Kyodan held on October 9. A committee which has been working on the problem brought in its report, and meeting schedules were revised and various other changes made so that requests from the local areas will be able to





No. 30 - December 15, 1953

get quicker, more efficient attention in the future.

It was also noted at the meeting that the Kyodan is now 60% self-supporting in its work and evangelism--an increase of 20% over 2 years ago. The Japanese members of the council expressed the hope that the missionaries would continue to cooperate in such way as to strengthen rather than weaken this self-support.

Most of the officers will continue to serve for another year. They will be headed by Dr. Kozaki, moderator of the Kyodan, as chairman; and President Murata of Meiji Gakuin as vice-chairman.

#### KYODAN CONTEMPLATES SENDING MISSIONARY TO NEWLY RETURNED ISLAND

Amami Ooshima island, which lies between Okinawa and Japan, will be returned to Japan at the end of the year, according to Foreign Minister Okazaki. To meet the need of the 215,000 inhabitants to learn more of Christianity, the Kyodan is planning to send a missionary to the island, and has appointed a committee to make the arrangements. The Committee will make a trip to the island in the middle of January to investigate the situation. At present there are 2 native Protestant ministers and a Catholic church on the island.

#### CHRISTIAN SOCIAL WORK SUPERINTENDENTS CONFERENCE

Putting the "Christian" back into Christian Social Work programs, was one of the main topics of discussion at a conference of Social Work Superintendents called by the Christian Children's Fund Nov. 24-26 in Hakone. The consensus of opinion of the 64 leaders who attended was that although social work was begun originally in a spirit of Christian love, it has gradually become more coldly scientific and has lost its religious influence. Ways must be found, the leaders agreed, to see that the warmth of Christian love permeates the whole social work program so that the religious motivation and influence may be apparent at all times.

The need of a training center for full time workers in orphanages and children's homes was also discussed at the conference. The Christian Children's Fund Board had already appointed a committee to work on this problem, and at the conference a committee of superintendents was chosen to help work on the establishment of such training center.

#### KYODAN TO SPONSOR NATIONAL SOCIAL PROGRAM STUDY CONFERENCE

Labor Problems and the Mutual Security Administration will be the theme of the National Social Program Study Conference to be sponsored by the Kyodan Social Committee in Tokyo from Jan. 12-14. An attendance of about 150 administrators, laymen, Christian politicians and other leaders is expected. The roster of speakers will include: Minoru Takano, General Sec. of the Sohyo Labor Union; Kiyoshi Ebata, editorial





no. 30 - December 15, 1953

writer for the Asahi Shimbun; Tokutaro Kitamura, former member of the . and member of the Kai Shin To (Reform Party); Seichi Katsumata, member of the Left Social Democrat Party; Fumio Ikematsu, editorial writer for the Mainichi paper.

#### BISHOP MARTIN TO VISIT JAPAN

Bishop W.C. Martin, president of the NCCC-USA will arrive in Japan on Dec. 18 for the first stop of his trip to carry Christmas greetings to GI's churches from members of the American Protestant and Orthodox and chaplains in Korea and Japan. He will then proceed to Korea where his Christmas sermon will be broadcast to all the troops there. Bishop Martin, who is also president of the Council of Bishops of the Methodist Church will be the first church leader to serve as a spiritual emissary of the majority of Christians in the US to the men and women in the Far East armed forces since the Korean war began. In addition to this task he will carry official messages from the NCCC-USA to the Christian churches in Japan and Korea. He plans to inspect the relief work of the American churches and also the Christian hospitals, schools and churches in Korea and Japan.

The NCC will hold a reception for Bishop Martin on Dec. 19 at 2:00 PM.

#### KAGAWA ON EVANGELISTIC TOUR OF JAPAN

Now in the midst of an intensive evangelistic tour of Japan, Kagawa will speak next in Nishinomiya from January 2-4. During this time, he will conduct a retreat at the "Friends of Jesus" social work settlement house which he started in Kobe a number of years ago. From Jan. 10-20 he will be in Koochi Ken and Tokushima, his birthplace. Kagawa has already spoken in Aomori Ken and Iwate Ken from Nov. 1-18, and in northern Kyushu from Dec. 6-9.

#### JAPAN CHURCHES COLLECT OFFERING TO HELP KOREA ORPHANS

The Kyodan is in the midst of a campaign of appealing to churches and Sunday Schools for a special Christmas offering to send to the orphans in Korea. There are 46,000 orphans in various government and Christian church orphanages in that stricken country. An almost total lack of stationery supplies is preventing most of them from going to school, and of course the children have few books or toys. The Kyodan plans to send paper, books and toys to the children.

NOTICE: The next issue of the Japan Christian Activity News will be published on January 15. There will be no Jan. 1 issue.

